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at 5 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENCE RESTORATION OPERATION IN CROATIA, THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCES HEADQUARTERS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 6.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 114: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/50/L.39

1. Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.5/50/L.39 entitled "Implementation of procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat" and proposed that it should be adopted without a vote.

2. Draft decision A/C.5/50/L.39 was adopted.

3. Mrs. ARCHINI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, encouraged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to establish an efficient, responsible and transparent procurement process. She welcomed the decision to request the Secretary-General to submit, at the fifty-first session, a comprehensive report on procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat, and regretted that the Secretary-General had not been authorized to appoint a director with the necessary experience and qualifications in the field of procurement. The European Union supported the concept that, in awarding contracts for procurement of goods and services, preference should be given, among equally qualified vendors and without prejudice to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, to vendors from countries not in arrears with their contributions. It was regrettable that no agreement had been reached on that issue. The European Union would continue to pursue that concept in every forum of the Organization where the subject was under consideration.

4. Mr. GRANT (United States of America) welcomed the progress that had been achieved on procurement reform. His delegation regretted that the Committee had been unable to reach agreement on a more comprehensive draft resolution, due in part to a lack of agreement on a proposed paragraph that, in his delegation's view, was a departure from the issues that had been included in the report of the group of experts, the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The proposed paragraph would have called on the Secretary-General to give preference, when awarding contracts and under certain conditions, to Member States based on their payment record. United Nations procurement decisions should be made on the basis of open competition and fair process; to introduce other elements unrelated to price, quality, delivery times or other such relevant factors could result in reduced competition, higher costs and reduced quality. Further, such a proposal could be seen as tantamount to imposing upon Member States penalties beyond those provided for in the Charter. He recognized that a number of delegations attached importance to the proposal, and he hoped that the discussion of that issue would not obstruct the important goal of making progress in procurement reform.

5. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) also regretted that the Committee had not reached agreement on a resolution dealing with more substantive matters and looked forward to the comprehensive report by the Secretary-General. He hoped

that in the implementation of procurement reform the Secretariat would take account of some of the pending issues regarding procurement, particularly in respect of Administrative Tribunal judgement No. 744 of 22 November 1995, which had not so far been implemented, but which, if implemented, would strengthen the Purchase and Transportation Service.

AGENDA ITEM 120: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.38

6. Mr. KELLY (Ireland) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.38 and drew attention to two revisions which had been agreed on in informal consultations. Paragraph 10 had been deleted and replaced by the following: "Reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly". In the first line of paragraph 11, the words "procedures to apply when considering" had been replaced by "procedural aspects for consideration of". He introduced the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution and recommended that the Committee should adopt it.

7. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.38 was adopted.

8. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that her delegation had not opposed the consensus in the Committee on exempting the countries indicated in the draft resolution from the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter. Nevertheless, it was paradoxical that the General Assembly should grant so many exemptions in such a serious payments crisis as that being experienced by the Organization. The granting of such exemptions without uniform or defined criteria and without a payments plan to meet the debts ran counter to the spirit of Article 19 of the Charter.

9. Mr. HO (Singapore) said that during the informal consultations on the item his delegation had pointed out the danger of granting large numbers of waivers to the application of Article 19 of the Charter. The financial crisis was caused by the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Each time a Member State was exempted from the provisions of Article 19 - the sole mechanism to ensure payment of assessed contributions by Member States - the Organization was brought one step closer to financial ruin. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the work of the Committee on Contributions. Regarding the draft resolution before the Committee, he supported the temporary exemption of Tajikistan from the application of Article 19 in view of the new information submitted since the special meeting of the Committee on Conferences, and hoped that the situation in that country would improve. In the case of Comoros, his delegation noted that the Committee on Contributions had not been able to consider its situation and he supported a temporary waiver pending consideration of its request by the Committee on Contributions. Exemptions to the application of Article 19 should be granted only in truly exceptional circumstances. They should not become commonplace or a convenient way out for Member States to avoid paying their assessed contributions; otherwise any plan to improve the financial situation of the United Nations would be doomed to failure.

AGENDA ITEM 136: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.35

10. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.35, by which the Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into commitments in the amount of $8,619,500 gross ($7,637,500 net) for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1996, to allow the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to continue its activities. She trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

11. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.35 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 160: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF RWANDA AND RWANDAN CITIZENS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SUCH VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 1994 (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.36

12. Mr. HANSON (Canada), reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.36, said that commitments had been authorized to the end of June. Further, the draft resolution would decide that Member States should waive their respective shares in the credits arising from previous budgets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in the total amount of $3,804,950 gross ($3,545,300 net) and that an equivalent amount should be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the year 1996. He trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

13. Ms. GRAHAM (United States of America) clarified that the amount authorized for the continued operation of the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1996 was $7,609,900 gross.

14. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.36 was adopted.

15. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said, in connection with draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.36, that the amount authorized for the period 1 April-30 June 1996 was not enough to cover immediate requirements, taking into account the fact that the International Tribunal for Rwanda had embarked on an operational stage. The Committee had not taken into account significant commitments not related to personnel, such as construction of chambers for the Tribunal, cells, and renovation of offices and the Arusha centre. All available resources would be utilized wisely so that the Tribunal could carry out the scheduled activities. Regarding detailed information on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Tribunal for Rwanda requested by some delegations, the Budget Division had prepared a table that would be circulated shortly.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the current stage of its consideration of those items and requested the Rapporteur to report directly thereon to the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 138: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

(a) FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/50/L.40, A/C.5/50/L.42 and A/C.5/50/L.44)

(b) RELOCATION OF UKRAINE TO THE GROUP OF MEMBER STATES SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 3 (c) OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 43/232 (continued) (A/C.5/50/L.41)

17. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium), Rapporteur, introduced the draft resolutions and recommended that they should be adopted without a vote. By draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41, on the reclassification of Ukraine to group C for the scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations, the General Assembly would note the decision by Greece to increase its contribution to peace-keeping operations through its reclassification, over five years, from group C to group B. That increase would offset the reduction in the amounts to be assessed on Ukraine through its reclassification from group B to group C. The draft resolution also stressed that such reclassifications did not result in any change in the assessments for financing peace-keeping operations of other Member States and took note of the intention stated by Ukraine on 29 March 1996 in the Fifth Committee concerning the settlement of its arrears.

18. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.40 on reform of the procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment, he noted that the General Assembly, in section II of its resolution 49/233, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into consultations with Member States with a view to arriving at the proposals now before the Committee. The draft resolution would decide that the reformed procedures should be in place as of 1 July 1996 on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group and in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), which meant that all new requests for reimbursement could be submitted in accordance with the old or new procedures, at the discretion of troop-contributing countries.

19. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.44 concerning death and disability benefits, it had become clear after the deliberations at the current session that the insurance option had not been studied sufficiently; the Secretary-General was therefore requested to make a further study of all the options, for submission to the General Assembly.

20. With regard to the support account for peace-keeping operations, the Committee had been asked to consider three questions, namely, the continuation until 30 June 1996 of the posts financed from that account, the establishment of a new funding arrangement for the support account after 1 July 1996, and the appropriation of the necessary resources to support peace-keeping operations in 1996-1997. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.42 was concerned with the first question. With regard to the other questions, the Committee felt that, in line

with the Secretary-General's recommendation, no decisions could be taken until the Committee had before it the budgets for all the peace-keeping operations for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. Meanwhile, the mechanisms established for the support account would remain in force until 30 June 1996, which would enable the Committee to take the necessary decisions at the second part of its resumed session.

21. Draft resolutions A/C.5/50/L.40, A/C.5/50/L.42 and A/C.5/50/L.44 were adopted.

22. Mrs. GRAHAM (United States of America) said that draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.42 represented a good bridging mechanism until May 1996. Her delegation wished to make it clear that the 61 temporary posts which had been authorized should not be extended beyond 30 June 1996 and that the Secretary-General should address the anomalies which had been identified and make proposals, for example on strengthening the Mission Planning Service without weakening other areas of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. In the interim, the use of support account funds to finance the lease of buildings and Advisory Committee posts was not authorized, and the funds allocated to support the Mission Planning Service and the Office of Internal Oversight Services would be maintained.

23. Her delegation looked forward to a non-pressured discussion of the outstanding issues and a thorough analysis, unit by unit, of the methodology proposed and the posts identified in the report of the Secretary-General. It must be ensured that the Department of Peace-keeping Operations had resources available to fulfil its mandate. Her delegation would therefore continue to question the use of support account resources to finance non-Department of Peace-keeping Operations activities, especially the leasing of property.

24. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), explaining the Secretariat's position on draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.42, said that the Secretary-General, in his report (A/50/876), expressed the hope that the General Assembly would ensure the adequate and predictable annual level of resources necessary to meet the minimum backstopping requirements at Headquarters, based on the outcome of the comprehensive review. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations could not operate alone, but needed administrative, legal and financial backstopping. There were other departments which provided considerable backstopping to peace-keeping operations. Because of the existing mechanism, the Secretary-General encountered serious problems in making long-term plans, informing personnel recruited for short periods about extensions of their contracts and adopting measures with regard to available posts. The postponement to May 1996 of the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals made planning extremely difficult. Under the draft resolution, the Secretary-General was authorized to extend until 30 June 1996 the 61 temporary posts authorized in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 49/250 and it was decided that the measures introduced by the Secretary-General in connection with the regular budget would not be extended to those posts. The Secretary-General had to implement the provisions of the draft resolution, but also had to take into account the decisions taken earlier by the General Assembly regarding the use of the support account, in particular in resolution 49/250, in which the General Assembly had decided that the Secretary-General was responsible for ensuring that expenditure remained

within the level of income. Currently, of the 408 posts authorized, 370 were filled, including the 61 posts mentioned earlier. In order to maintain the 370 posts during the period from 1 January and 30 June 1996, it was estimated that $16 million was needed, and that amount was not available. According to the income estimate made under the existing methodology, only $11.6 million was available. The only possible way for the Secretary-General to finance the 370 posts which were filled was to transfer funds from the operating reserve.

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41

25. Mr. HO (Singapore) said that his delegation was willing to support draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41 on the understanding that it marked the beginning of Ukraine's reclassification to group C without establishing when Ukraine would become a full-fledged member of that group. Pending a final solution of the matter, Ukraine's assessment for the financing of peace-keeping operations would be reduced by an amount equivalent to the increase in the amount assessed on Greece. Any shortfall would have to be borne by Ukraine.

26. Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41 was adopted.

27. Mr. GRANT (United States of America) commended Greece for its voluntary decision to be reclassified from group C to group B for the apportionment of the expenses of peace-keeping operations and expressed the hope that other members would follow suit. Although it had joined the consensus, his delegation had reservations about Greece's intention to effect the reclassification gradually over several years rather than immediately and about the plan to reduce Ukraine's assessed contribution to match the increase in Greece's assessed contributions. The General Assembly had once again approved a small adjustment to the scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations when what was needed was a complete overhaul. His Government felt that it was crucial to include in the resolution a paragraph indicating that the decision would be adjusted as appropriate to conform to relevant decisions that might be adopted in the future. The cause of the problem faced by Ukraine was that the grouping system for the apportionment of the expenses of peace-keeping contributions did not work. The step between group C and group B was too large; there were too many countries with widely differing economic circumstances that were in the same group and the 80 per cent discount for group C members was too large and was provided to far too many States. There were no objective criteria for determining which countries were placed in one group or another and because the methodology was too rigid, it was very difficult to make changes which were justified by changing economic circumstances. There should be no groups, but individual assessment rates based on realistic criteria. The scale of assessments needed to be revised so that assessments were made in a balanced and equitable manner. If the General Assembly did not revise the current system soon, the Committee would receive further appeals for reclassification from Member States. The scale of assessments for the financing of peace-keeping operations was one of the issues on the agenda of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations, which would have several meetings in spring 1996. His Government hoped that the consideration of the issue would be given top priority.

28. Mr. GOUMENNY (Ukraine) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution. The apportionment of costs among all Member States in accordance with their capacity to pay was a prerequisite for stability in financing United Nations peace-keeping operations. Its delegation also expressed its great appreciation of the voluntary decision taken by Greece to move to group B in order to enable the transition of Ukraine to group C. In that connection, the draft resolution only started the process of Ukraine's transition to group C. His delegation hoped that the Fifth Committee would manage to find a final solution to that important issue.

29. Mr. KYVETOS (Greece) welcomed the fact that the Committee had found a satisfactory solution to one of the most difficult issues it had faced in recent times.

30. Mr. DEINEKO (Russian Federation) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and noted that Ukraine's assessments for the financing of peace-keeping operations and the regular budget were not in line with its capacity to pay. Its consequential arrears amounted to several hundred million dollars, which contributed to the worsening of the Organization's financial situation. He also welcomed the contribution Greece had made to solving the problem. His delegation wished to point out, however, that the issue was only partially resolved. As the delegation of the United States had noted, the current scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations bore absolutely no relationship to the real situation. The system of apportionment by groups of countries adopted over 20 years earlier was no longer valid. The number of countries granted waivers to the application of Article 19 of the Charter increased every year and required the adoption of decisions on a case-by-case basis. The existing methodology for the apportionment of contributions to the United Nations was unjust and did not reflect countries' true capacity to pay. For all those reasons, the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations must bring some order to the system of apportionment of the expenses of the Organization and establish a solid foundation for its operations.

31. Ms. ALMAO (New Zealand) commended the decision by Greece to accept a higher assessed contribution to the financing of peace-keeping operations, since that decision would help to strengthen the financial situation of the Organization and make it possible to correct the situation of Ukraine, which had so far been assessed at an excessively high rate. It was in any event an exceptional measure, employed only three times since 1989, but the problems addressed in draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41 were not peculiar to Ukraine. Other Member States were affected by the financial burden which the current system of apportionment of the expenses of peace-keeping operations imposed. New Zealand reiterated its position, expressed six months earlier, that the General Assembly must consider, as a matter of the greatest urgency, the points of view of all States affected by the anomalies in the current system, which imposed on them assessments that did not fairly reflect their capacity to pay. New Zealand wished to join in the efforts to find a solution to that problem, and to that end, had submitted a package of proposals in the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations. Other delegations had also submitted important proposals in that regard which should be given consideration so as to resolve the issue without delay.

32. Mr. GHOKALE (India) welcomed the decision to reclassify Ukraine to group C, but deplored the difficulties encountered in adopting the decision after a considerable delay. India reiterated its support for the application of the system for the apportionment of expenses for the financing of peace-keeping operations and noted that the Group of 77 and China also shared that position. However, draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41 would have no effect on the work of the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations, which was concerned with various issues of another type.

33. Mr. ATIYANTO (Indonesia) supported the statement by the representative of India.

34. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that her delegation also supported the statement by the representative of India. She recalled that the Netherlands had not yet received a reply to its request, made at the beginning of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, to classify the Czech Republic and Slovakia in one of the groups of the special scale of assessments for the financing of peace-keeping operations, so that those countries could make appropriate contributions. Mexico urged the Committee to consider that matter as soon as possible.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that informal consultations would be held on that matter and that the Committee would resume its consideration of the question at a later date. He took it that, after the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.41, draft decision A/C.5/50/L.9 and draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.32 were withdrawn by their respective sponsors.

36. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENCE RESTORATION OPERATION IN CROATIA, THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCES HEADQUARTERS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 167: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 168: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR EASTERN SLAVONIA, BARANJA AND WESTERN SIRMIUM (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 169: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/50/L.37

37. Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft decision A/C.5/50/L.37. In the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of US$ 100 million gross for the pre-liquidation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) and the United Nations Peace Forces Headquarters, as well as the maintenance of the United Nations Transitional Administration for

Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) for the period from 1 January to 31 May 1996. The General Assembly would also decide, as an ad hoc arrangement, to assess the amount of $50 million gross to the Special Account established by General Assembly resolution 46/233. The draft decision was the result of informal consultations held on agenda items 128, 167, 168 and 169, and he recommended that the Committee should adopt it by consensus. During the first week of May, at the second part of its resumed session, the Committee would conduct a detailed examination of the cost estimates for those operations for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996, as indicated in paragraph (d) of the draft decision, on the basis of full documentation, including the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and other related reports.

38. Draft decision A/C.5/50/L.37 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued)

Report on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

39. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia), Vice-Chairman, said that the members of the Committee had decided in informal consultations to postpone consideration of that matter until the second part of the resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

40. It was so decided.

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43

41. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a draft resolution (A/C.5/50/L.43) submitted by him under agenda item 116. He requested interested delegations to inform the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations on the draft resolution.

42. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his delegation was not ready to take a decision on the matter at that meeting since, owing to the fact that the draft resolution had been circulated on the day of the meeting, and thus without sufficient notice, his delegation had not had time to give it proper consideration. He proposed that consideration of the question should be deferred to the second part of the resumed session, to be held in the first week of May 1996, so that a consensus decision could be taken in accordance with the Committee's practice.

43. Ms. RODRIGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba) asked why it was necessary to take a decision requesting full implementation of paragraphs 3 and 4 of section III of General Assembly resolution 46/192, as provided for in the draft resolution before the

Committee, if there was no resolution contradicting the provisions of resolution 46/192. On the basis of the explanations given by the Secretariat on previous occasions when the Committee had considered the question, her delegation had understood that it was not necessary to take further decisions on the matter, but, rather, to apply the provisions that all Member States had approved in resolution 46/192.

44. Mr. OWADE (Kenya) said that his delegation would regret any failure to take a decision at that meeting, once the Secretariat had replied to the question raised by the delegation of Cuba.

45. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretariat was guided in the matter under consideration by the decisions of the General Assembly, in particular the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of section III of resolution 46/192, which provided that the pensionable remuneration of full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be adjusted between comprehensive reviews in accordance with the procedure applicable for adjustment of the scale of pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories.

46. Ms. RODRIGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba) said that on the basis of the Controller's statement she concluded that there was no need to adopt a new draft resolution since the Secretariat was being guided by the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/192.

47. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that it was his understanding that draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43 had been submitted at the request of the Chairman. If the Secretariat was already being guided by the provisions of resolution 46/192, he asked what the purpose was of submitting a draft resolution on the question. If it were necessary to take a new decision, that would suggest that the provisions of resolution 46/192 had not so far been applied; should that be the case, he would request an explanation from the Secretariat.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that it was his understanding that the proposal to submit draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43 had originated with delegations.

49. Mr. MOKTEFI (Algeria) said that, on the basis of the explanations provided by the Secretariat, his delegation considered that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/192 were applicable to the officials in question and called for those provisions to be observed.

50. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) urged the Secretariat to reply to the question put by the representative of the United States.

51. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that the Committee had debated the issue at some length when it had first been considered. She saw no purpose in continuing the discussion at that meeting, since all the members of the Committee appeared to agree that there was no need to adopt the draft resolution before it. She proposed that consideration of the question should be ended.

52. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that, in responding to the question put previously by his delegation, the Controller might clarify whether funding was available in the budget adopted to cover the financial implications of the measures proposed in draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43.

53. Mr. ODAGA-JALOMAYO (Uganda) agreed with the representative of Portugal. The informal consultations had been more than adequate and the explanation by the Secretariat extremely clear. Accordingly, he proposed that the Committee should take no action on draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43 and moved the closure of the debate.

54. Ms. RODRIGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba) and Mr. TOURE (Mali) seconded the motion proposed by the representative of Uganda.

55. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that he had yet to receive any answer to his questions and that he could not take part in any decision without clarification, in view of which he did not support the Ugandan motion.

56. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.43 had not been prepared by the Secretariat but by the Committee Bureau. The information requested by the representative of the United States appeared in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/12), which indicated how the financial implications that would arise should the draft resolution be adopted would be met. If no action were taken on the draft resolution, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/192, which were extremely clear, would continue to be applied.

57. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that since there was no consensus on the motion a vote should be taken so as to close the matter.

58. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) supported the representative of Mexico since, in accordance with established procedure, no other matter could be taken up until a decision was taken on the motion.

59. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that, regarding procedure, the draft resolution had not been submitted in accordance with rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, since it had been received only a few hours before the meeting. Further, invoking rule 77 of the rules of procedure, he proposed a motion for suspension of the meeting.

60. The CHAIRMAN said that the motion proposed by the delegation of Uganda had precedence over that proposed by the United States.

61. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that the motion proposed by the representative of Uganda assumed that the draft resolution had been formally submitted in accordance with proper procedure, but, under the provisions of rule 24 of the rules of procedure, that was not the case.

62. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the motion proposed by the representative of Uganda.

63. The motion was adopted by 46 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

64. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) asked the Chairman to rule on whether a quorum was necessary to proceed to a vote.

65. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) said that no quorum was needed to vote on a procedural issue.

66. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his delegation reserved its position on the matter, since paragraphs 17 and 18 of document A/C.5/50/12 seemed to indicate that there was no clear source of funding to meet the financial implications.

The meeting rose at 8.40 p.m.